



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
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EARTH DAY



El Día de la Tierra se celebra el 22 de abril y surgió en 1970 como un movimiento de protesta, promovido por el senador y activista medioambiental estadounidense Gaylor Nelson.

Presidential Proclamation -- Earth Day, 2016

The White House

April 21, 2016

On April 22, 1970, millions of people from every corner of our country joined in common cause to demand basic protections to safeguard our planet for future generations. The first Earth Day helped transform the ways we interact with the world around us, and it changed how we view our impact on the natural world -- inspiring the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and landmark legislation that protects the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the animals that live alongside us. Today, we resolve to build on the progress made in the nearly half-century since, and we reaffirm our commitment to leaving a clean, healthy Earth for our children and grandchildren.

Just as the people who came together on Earth Day in 1970 embraced their responsibility to preserve our planet, today we face a threat that also requires collective action. Human activity is disrupting the climate, and the challenge of combating climate change is one that will define the contours of our time. The effects of climate change are already evident in stronger storms, deeper droughts, more rapidly eroding soil, and longer wildfire seasons -- and as of last year, 14 of the 15 warmest years on record have occurred since 2000. This urgent threat will worsen with each passing year unless we act now.

No country can solve this challenge alone. This Earth Day, nations from across the globe are gathering in New York to sign an agreement reached by nearly 200 countries in Paris late last year that establishes an enduring framework to reduce global carbon pollution and set the world on a path to a low-carbon future. Under the Paris Agreement, countries pledge to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius at most, and to pursue efforts to keep it below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Science tells us these levels will help prevent some of the most devastating impacts of climate change, including more frequent and extreme droughts, storms, fires, and floods, as well as catastrophic increases in sea level.

The Paris Agreement demonstrates what is possible when the world is united by a common concern and a shared purpose. The Agreement sets ambitious and specific targets for each nation that are necessary to solving the climate crisis. It applies to all countries, establishes meaningful accountability and reporting requirements, and brings countries back to the table every 5 years to grow their commitments as markets change and technologies improve. It also provides financing mechanisms so developing economies can move forward using clean energy, and it creates a collaborative process through which countries can establish and achieve their targets.

Key to reaching the Paris Agreement was principled American leadership. Over the past decade, the United States has cut our total carbon pollution more than any

other nation on Earth. We are committed to upholding our responsibility in the global effort to combat climate change and protect our planet, and my Administration has taken action to reduce our carbon pollution and lead the world in transitioning to a clean energy future. For example, we have made significant investments in clean energy -- since I took Office, the amount of electricity generated from wind energy has tripled, and the amount generated from solar energy has increased more than thirtyfold. Last year, I announced the first set of nationwide standards to end the limitless dumping of carbon pollution from our country's power plants. To prepare for the impacts of climate change that we cannot prevent, we are working with States and cities to help communities build climate-resilient infrastructure. And I have protected more public lands and waters than any other President in history -- more than 265 million acres.

We each have a role to play in ensuring that we do not pass a world beyond repair on to our children. Everyone must do their part, and as long as we unite to protect the one planet we have, we can leave it in better shape for future generations. On Earth Day, let us all accept our individual responsibilities to care for the world we live in, and let us marshal our best efforts toward building a safer, more stable, and more sustainable world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2016, as Earth Day. I encourage all Americans to participate in programs and activities that will protect our environment and contribute to a healthy, sustainable future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

BARACK OBAMA

Senior State Department Official on the Paris Agreement Signing Ceremony

U.S. Department of State

April 20, 2016

“Countries, cities, states, companies and communities all moving ahead, turning the work really to implement the Paris agreement into reality – to achieve the commitments set forth in Paris to reduce emissions, to mobilize private capital, to build resilience, to adapt to the impacts of unavoidable change.”

Remarks Secretary of State Kerry at Bloomberg New Energy Finance Summit

U.S. Department of State

April 5, 2016

I think it's fair to say that here in the United States, President Obama is leading as no other president has yet dared to do. His Administration put in place fuel standards that empowered automakers to invest in more efficient automobiles. We've finalized rules that limit the amount of carbon pollution coming from new and existing power plants, making investment in harmful energy far less attractive than investment in cleaner alternatives. And this past winter, in a hard-fought win, Congress did pass a five-year extension of the production and investment tax credits for solar and wind installations, in order to make it easier to get new clean energy projects up and running. And they did that with bipartisan support, both sides of the aisle recognizing that leaving aside their differences and their fight over the evidence, investing in clean energy just makes good business sense.

Energy Department Announces Funding to Train Engineers, Provide Energy Assessments for Small- and Medium-sized Manufacturers

Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

April 6, 2016

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced approximately \$35 million in funding, subject to congressional appropriations, to assist small- and medium-sized U.S. manufacturers with increasing their energy efficiency, productivity, sustainability and competitiveness and to help address the shortage of engineering professionals with applied energy-related skills. The Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC) program provides hands-on training and extensive education for undergraduate and graduate engineering students in manufacturing processes, energy assessment procedures, and energy management systems.

Fact Sheet: Working Together to Build a Sustainable Water Future

The White House

March 22, 2016

The White House's call to action issued in December, more than 150 external institutions are joining the Federal government in announcing new efforts and

commitments to enhance the sustainability of water in the United States by managing our water resources and infrastructure for the long term.

U.S.-China Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change

The White House

March 31, 2016

The United States and China will sign the Paris Agreement on April 22nd and take their respective domestic steps in order to join the Agreement as early as possible this year. They encourage other Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to do the same, with a view to bringing the Paris Agreement into force as early as possible. The Presidents further express their commitment to work together and with others to promote the full implementation of the Paris Agreement to win the fight against the climate threat.

U.S.-Canada Joint Statement on Climate, Energy, and Arctic Leadership

The White House

March 10, 2016

President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau share a common vision of a prosperous and sustainable North American economy, and the opportunities afforded by advancing clean growth. They emphasize and embrace the special relationship between the two countries and their history of close collaboration on energy development, environmental protection, and Arctic leadership.

America is Building a Clean-Energy Economy with Unprecedented Momentum

White House blog

March 3, 2016

The full path to market for a new clean energy technology – from an “aha” moment in a scientific laboratory to a complex system installed at scale – can take decades and involve hundreds of individual inventions, improvements, and optimizations. The President’s ambitious actions to cut carbon pollution will ensure that America takes a comprehensive approach to the climate technology challenge, including a balanced mix of basic science, applied research and development, lab-to-market support, and incentives for widespread deployment – including smart pollution standards that reward innovation in cutting emissions.

Statement on the Departure of U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern and the Appointment of Jonathan Pershing

U.S. Department of Defense

March 21, 2016

I’m pleased to announce that, upon Todd’s departure, Dr. Jonathan Pershing will become the U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change. A trained scientist who has

worked in government, in the private sector, and in the non-profit world, Jonathan has spent the past three years helping run the policy shop at the Department of Energy and serving as the senior climate advisor to Energy Secretary Ernie Moniz. Previously, Jonathan was also part of the Nobel prize-winning International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which has literally helped write the book on climate change and what we can do about it. Kerry's words.

This unwanted stuff could have a second life

ShareAmerica

March 29, 2016

The U.S. Materials Marketplace offers a creative route to economic growth without depleting precious natural resources or damaging the environment.

Materials that would ordinarily be dumped as trash find new life thanks to the Marketplace, which matches one business's industrial waste with other businesses that can use it for profit. Pollution's reduced and the companies benefit.

Fact Sheet: President Obama's 21st Century Clean Transportation System

The White House

February 4, 2016.

"President Obama's budget lays out a bold new plan for building a 21st Century Clean Transportation System funded by a new fee paid by oil companies. The President's plan would increase American investments in clean transportation infrastructure by roughly 50 percent."

A Retrospective Assessment of Clean Energy Investments in the Recovery Act

The White House

February 2016

The White House Council of Economic Advisors released this report assessing the Recovery Act's transformative impact on our economy.

Joint Statement on Whaling and Safety at Sea

U.S. Department of State

January 11, 2016

The Governments of Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United States jointly condemn any actions at sea that may cause injury, loss of human life or damage to property or the marine environment during Southern Ocean whaling operations in 2016.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

fishackathon ><>

April 22-24, 2016

Fishackathon is a public-private partnership that aims to capitalize on the expansion of mobile phone and internet use across the developing world to address sustainable fishery challenges. The annual Fishackathon event calls on coders and science enthusiasts from all around the world to come together to create new applications and tools for use on mobile phones and other devices, which can help fishers work smarter and more safely in sustainable fishing.

<http://www.fishackathon.co/>

Solar Decathlon

Denver, Colorado – Fall 2017

The Energy Department on March 11 announced Denver, Colorado, as the host city for the next U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon competition in the fall of 2017. Denver won the bid to host this biennial event, in which student teams compete to design, build, and operate cost-effective, energy-efficient, and attractive solar-powered houses.

www.solardecathlon.gov/

The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Government.

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